

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 TRSE-00 CU-02

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5375

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AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HONG KONG 6472

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: BEXP, EIND, ETRD, HK

SUBJECT: AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL ADMINISTRATION (ARBA)
LOGO

REF: A. HONG KONG 5336 (NOTAL); B. STATE 113858 (NOTAL)

1. AS SOON AS WE RECIEVED REFTEL B WE NOTIFIED, IN LETTERS DATED MAY 19 AND 20 APPORPRIATE TRADE ASSOCIATIONS ABOUT RESTRICTIONS AGANINST FOREIGN MANUFACTURE OF ITEMS BEARING BICENTINNIAL LOGO. ADDRESSEES, IN TURN, NOTIFIED MEMBERS. THIS ACTION APPARENTLY TOO LATE, HOWEVER, AS WE NOW HEAR THAT SHIPMENT OF HK MANUFACTURED GOODS BEARING LOGO HAVE ALREADY BEEN DETAINED BY CUSTOMS AT US PORTS.

2. CARGO DETENTION HAS CAUSED US PUBLIC RELATIONS PROBLEMS OF SERIOUS PROPORTIONS. SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST, HONG KONG'S LARGEST AND MOST INFLUENTIAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER, CARRIED FRONT PAGE ARTICLE IN WHICH LOCAL MANUFACTURES SHARPLY CRITICIZED US FOR FAILURE TO GIVE ADEQUATE NOTICE OF RESTRICTIONS. THEY CLAIMED THEY HAD NO WORD ON THIS UNTIL SHIPMENTS DETAINED . OTHER MEDIA HAVE ASKED US FOR COMMENTS.

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3. OUR BEING AWARE OF REQUIREMENT WAS PURE HAPPENSTANCE. WE SAW

NOTICE IN HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL PUBLICATION CONCERNING HANDLING OF LICENSING BY HAMILTON PROJECTS, INC. AND COLUMBIA SPECIAL PRODUCTS AND SOUGHT CLARIFICATION IN REFTEL A. PRIOR TO REFTEL B WE HAD NO INDICATION THAT THERE WAS ANY RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF LOGO. WE UNDERSTAND THAT AT LEAST SOME ITEMS DETAINED WERE PRODUCED TO ORDER FOR US PURCHASERS, RAISING POSSIBILITY THAT PROHIBITION ON OFFSHORE MANUFACTURE NOT WELL KNOWN IN US EITHER.

4. HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MAINTAINS THAT AS EARLY AS SEPTEMBER 1974 THEIR NEW YORK OFFICE CONTACTED THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL ADMINISTRATION FOR RULES ON USE AND MANUFACTURE OF BIECNTENNIAL LOGO, BUT THAT NO CLEAR-CUT ANSWER WAS EVER FORTHCOMING. THE TDC SPOKESMAN SAID THAT TDC IN FACT WAS NOT EVEN ADVISED OF A GENERAL PROHIBITION AGANINST MANUFACTURE OF THE LOGO UNTIL OUR LETTER WAS RECIEVED. ACCORDINGLY WE BELIEVE IT DEMONSTRATES THAT MOST, IF NOT ALL, AFFECTED LOCAL MANUFACTURES SHIPPED LOGO GOODS IN THE GOOD FAITH THAT IT WAS PERMISSIBLE TO DO SO.

UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE TRUST THAT A WAY CAN BE FOUND TO MAKE AN EXCEPTION FOR THOSE GOODS ALREADY SHIPPED.

DECONTROL UPON RECIEPT.
CROSS

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